GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1024
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT
C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have urged the Union Government to reduce the height of Narmada Dam (Sardar Sarovar Dam) to 19 metres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a), (b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have not approached the Government of India for reduction in height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
However, during hearing of the Writ Petition filed by NBA in the Supreme Court the Government of Madhya Pradesh has pleaded for reduction in the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from 138.68 m. to 132.89 m. on the plea that it will reduce the submergence area and the number of project affected families. A complaint from Government of Madhya Pradesh under Section -3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 and a request to refer to a Tribunal for adjudication of the dispute with regard to the use, distribution and control of the Waters of the Inter-State River Narmada was also received on 23.3.1998 wherein the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sought readjudication through a new tribunal on various grounds including reduction in FRL from 138.68 m. to 132.89 m. among others.
However, in the opinion of Government of India the application received from Government of Madhya Pradesh was in contravention to the provisions contained in the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 and therefore untenable. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed accordingly on 30.3.1999.